

Piiiiisssst

RANA HADDAD

American University of Beirut

There is an intimate relation between a piece of luggage and its owner. When carried, the luggage intermittently caresses the body of its holder. The heavier the luggage, the closer the relation. It is an act that carries with it an unsolicited pleasure – a body forced into a sensation of painful joy.

Here, the power play shifts. The luggage now contains within it the body that once held it. This body is limited to push backwards, blindly moving against the flow of the passersby who must now themselves, in an alienated experience, respond to the demands of an object they once presumed they could control.

“Piiiiisssst” is a 55 minutes performance / installation. The performance took place at the Milwaukee Art Museum during the opening ceremony. The installation consisted of - 32.4 linear meters by 0.335-meter width - folded posters, revealing body parts coming out from a suitcase, suitcase part or simply limbs that meet each other in a none orthodox manner. It is a reflection of the actual gesture of being carried in a suitcase as the only necessity that one should carry when having to shift from a place to another unexpectedly.

PASCAL HACHEM

American University of Beirut

